A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

Town Center Takes Another Chip: Block 4

City Stays on Pace for Spring Groundbreaking for Redeveloped Downtown

Most of the 15 acres that encompass Phase I of Rockville's plans for its redeveloped Town Center have been thoroughly discussed and reviewed over the past two years. The exception was the area known in the plan as "Block 4"—the northeast corner of the Rockville Town Square development at the intersection of Beall Avenue and Route 355.

Now the plans for Block 4 are much clearer.

The Mayor and Council on Feb. 9 unanimously adopted a resolution to enter a general development agreement that will allow developer RD Rockville Block 4, LLC to build a five-story building whose lower level will be home to a new 11,000-square-foot CVS drug store and 10,000 square feet of additional retail space. The upper four stories will

contain about 108 apartments.

The agreement obligates the City to build, as was part of the original Town Center design, a parking garage as part of Block 4. The City will issue bonds to pay for the garage. However, the developer will design and construct the garage, which would contain approximately 877 parking spaces.

RD Rockville Block 4 will pay the City approximately \$5 million for the retail and residential components of the development. The purchase price includes an approximate \$350,000 contribution for impact taxes for improvements and costs of participation in the Rockville Demand Management Program.

In addition, the developer will pay the City \$22,560 per parking space for purchase of



The Mayor and Council have a good overview of the new town center—in model form. The model has increasing detail each time the architects bring it back to City Hall for open houses or worksessions.

approximately 288 spaces in the garage. There will be an annual rent of \$900 for approximately 154 rental spaces.

The agreement allows realignment of some of the originally planned dwelling spaces, with condominium allocations moving from Block 4 to Block 5 (just north of East Middle Lane).

"This brings the split in housing units to 55 percent rental units and 45 percent condominiums," Director of Community Planning and Development Services Art Cham-

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bers told the Mayor and Council. "This gets us close to the 50-50 split between rental and owner-occupied units that you have been seeking."

The general development agreement for Block 4 keeps the overall project on pace for a spring groundbreaking.

Plans for the Town Square development call for the first public parking garage, the first restaurant and retail space, the first residential units, the public square and the new Rockville Regional Library to open in 2006. RR

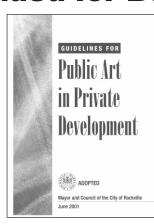
CITIZEN SUMMIT – IDEAS FROM THE TOP: Rockville's Mayor and Council, in preparation to establish goals for their current term and to help their focus in formulating the FY 2005 budget, met with about 50 residents on Feb. 10 at Glenview Mansion. At the second "Citizen Summit" in three years, the residents broke into work groups and members of the Mayor and Council rotated among the groups. "What we have here is a fantastic cross-section of the City of Rockville," Mayor Larry Giammo said in his introductory remarks. "What I and the City Council will do tonight is listen. What we want you to do is talk." Above, Councilmember John Hall, Jr., exchanges thoughts with Kenneth Reichard and Margaret Griffin.

Rockville Headed for Better Look

Rockville will have a better overall look in years to come as the Mayor and Council unanimously supported the "Public Art in Private Development" program that has been under discussion for more than a year.

At the general session of Feb. 9, the Mayor and Council voted 5-0 to implement the program that will greatly enhance the aesthetic qualities of private development and improve public accessibility to art around the City. The basis of the proposal will have all developers of future projects include an expenditure toward art.

The proposal had undergone two public hearings, numerous worksessions and discussions with the Mayor and Council and even had a task force formed to iron out several aspects of the plan. The talks brought several modifications of the original



proposal, but until January, some disagreement remained on whether the square footage of parking structures should be included in the overall square footage of projects that will be assessed in the plan.

At the general session of Jan. 12, Councilmember Susan Hoffmann—who chaired the task force—suggested having all parking structures that are accessories to buildings not be included when calculating fees. This would basically ex-

clude most parking structures unless they were built as stand alone parking garages.

"All we have gone through to develop this program makes this a better law," said Councilmember Hoffmann.

Under the ordinance, which went into effect immediately, all future construction projects in the City—including those that had applications pending as of Feb. 9 but had not yet been approved—will be assessed a fee for arts-related improvements.

Although this type of program is not unique in the nation, Rockville's approach created a model program thanks to the input of the City's Cultural Arts Commission, the arts community residents and the business community.

The City will review the program's progress in 12 to 18 months. RR

March's Best of Rockville

Mar. 7-23

Rockville Student Art Show. The works of more than 200 young Rockville artists will be on exhibition at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery as this show returns for its fifth decade. Opening reception Sunday, March 7, from 1-4 p.m. Free. 240-314-8682.

Mar. 14

Rockville Arts Sampler. Resident companies of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre take the stage for a mix of entertainment for the entire family. 2004 Rockville Arts Awards also will be presented. Free. 3 p.m. 240-314-8681.



Mar. 30

Peerless History of Neighborhoods.

Discussion and guest series continues on the elements that shaped Rockville development. 7:30 p.m. at the Americana Center (left). Free. 301-762-8316.

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City Projects U*P*D*A*T*E

RECREATION & PARKS

Ballfield Improvements • Installation of permanent batting cages at Mark Twain Athletic Park for use by girls' softball teams – complete.

City Hall Improvements • Reorganization and renovation of 2nd and 3rd floor interior spaces to improve use efficiencies. Design in final stage • Construction bids in spring 2004. Construction will take approximately one year.

Dawson Farm Park • Reconstruction of granary in historically sensitive manner and to serve as a park shelter/gazebo and artwork – under construction • Wooden bridge renovation in spring 2004.

Dog Park • The Rockville
Dog Owners Group (R-DOG)
has developed preliminary
recommendations for the location of the dog park • R-DOG
presented its findings to the
Mayor and Council in the fall.
Mayor and Council recommended further review of the
King Farm 28-acre park option for City's first dog park.

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City's Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Phase I includes replacement of salt dome, storm water management upgrades, access improvements and improved debris storage. Construction bids in spring 2004.

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson

Street bikeways • TEA-21 grant for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Construction scheduled to begin in 2004.

King Farm Farmstead • Contracts issued for removal of deteriorated buildings and sheds • Study underway for converting the Hay Drying Shed into a picnic shelter • Landscaping improvements. Work in compliance with task force recommendations with HDC approvals.

King Farm 28-Acre Park • Concept design phase underway responding to King Farm resident survey results • Public design meetings scheduled for late winter, early spring.

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road. Construction bids have been received. Construction scheduled for spring/summer 2004 • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently in design. Majority of cost for both projects covered by TEA-21 grants awarded by State Highway Administration.

Playground Equipment Improvements • Replacement equipment at Maryvale Park and Elwood Smith Park is being designed with input from neighborhood children. Equipment installation is expected to begin in late spring 2004.

Rockville Senior Center • Expansion of dining room and kitchen renovations and improvements • Funding support from Maryland Office on Aging and Rockville Seniors, Inc. Construction to begin in February 2004.

Science Center Feasibility
Study • Study of design and
site options, program services
and funding opportunities for
proposed new Rockville Science Center. Task Force made
up of Science Consortium
Board members and residents
has begun meeting. • Request
for Proposal for consulting services to be advertised in spring

Swim Center • Interactive water playground or "sprayground" to be added to outdoor complex for summer season 2004. Construction bid awarded.

2004.

Urban Forest Renewal • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook, Potomac Woods and other neighborhoods is ongoing • Replacement plantings will take place in spring 2004.

PUBLIC WORKS

GENERAL PROJECTS

Asphalt Maintenance • The 2003 project is complete with the exception of five streets. That work was postponed to allow Washington Gas to complete gas main replacements. Delayed streets include Cedar Court, Cedar Lane from Grandin Avenue to Marshall Avenue, Dean Drive from Grandin Avenue to Bernard Place, McAulliffe Drive from Cedar Lane to Patton Place and Patton Place. Resurfacing of those streets scheduled after Washington Gas completes construction • Two additional streets, Mannakee Street from Route 355 to the rear of Montgomery College and Ardennes Avenue, will be milled to a two-inch depth and overlayed in late spring.

Cabin John Parkway Dead
End • Pavement to be removed
and area restored following
completion of repairs to nearby
retaining wall by developer •
Restoration expected to be
completed in spring.

TRANSPORTATION Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Horners Lane improvements are substantially complete • Route 28 and Great Falls Road planned for summer • Beall Elementary School sidewalk improvements under study • The lighted crosswalk on Twinbrook Parkway to provide access to the Twinbrook Recreation Center is complete • The Chapman Avenue lighted crosswalk is complete • Nelson Street crosswalk for access to park planned for fall.

Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements • Majority of the projects are complete • Those not complete include Gude Drive and Gaither Road; I-270 and Shady Grove Road (to be started in fall); and I-270, Route 28 and Nelson St. (to be started in fall).

Hurley Avenue Traffic Calming • Traffic circle at Feather Rock Place is substantially complete • Intersection modification at Sherbrooke to begin in late spring.

STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS
Frost Stream Restoration •
1,600 feet of stream between
Wootton High School and Frost
Middle School and down to
Scott Drive will be restored •
Construction planned for summer 2004.

RedGate Golf Course NE Park Stormwater Management Retrofits • Modify existing SWM facilities and improve 600 feet of stream in Rock
Creek drainage area • One pond is on the golf course and the other is next to Gude Drive
• Construction planned for summer.

Tower Oaks Marsh • Marsh on east side of Tower Oaks Boulevard is complete.

Woottons Mill Stream Improvement • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access to be maintained • Construction planned for summer.

Congressional Tower Storm
Drain Repair • Rehabilitation
of the 90-inch metal pipe that
runs under the Congressional
Towers high rise apartment
complex parking lot on
Jefferson Street has started
and will be completed in
March.

UTILITIES

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping for the southeastern area of Twinbrook, has been completed and the results have been evaluated • Prioritization of repairs based upon cost effectiveness will begin in the spring • Construction planned for summer 2005.

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Stream restoration is included • Construction to begin late winter 2004.

Rockville Gets Residents' Input on Wish List for New King Farm 28-Acre Park

A 28-acre parcel of land in the King Farm neighborhood likely will be the last major park developed in Rockville. The City is intent on creating a park that will serve the many needs and desires of a crosssection of residents.

Last fall, residents of the King Farm neighborhood were surveyed on what they would like to see included in the design of the park, which was donated by the developer. The park site is set in the northwest corner of one of Rockville's newest mixed-use developments.

King Farm Park, like all City parks, will be designed for use by all residents of Rockville. However, in the early stages of planning, the City sought the opinions of King Farm residents.

The survey indicated that among elements residents would like to see the park were: playgrounds, open space, athletic playing fields, tennis courts, a fitness trail, sand volleyball courts, a dog park area and a picnic pavilion. Residents also asked for amenities such as bathrooms and well-lit paths.

Eventually, the park may accommodate a Montgomery County public middle school. Currently, Montgomery

County Public Schools (MCPS) has no firm plans for this site. If MCPS elects to build a school, the City will deed the footprint of the school site and parking lot to MCPS. Rockville will continue to own and maintain the remainder of the park.

Although the park will be built well ahead of the school, the park design must accommodate future school construction.

The survey results will help the park design consultant, who has begun work on preliminary design plans.

Rockville staff, along with the design consultant, will hold an open house in the spring to



King Farm Park (location noted in black in middle of above map) likely will be the last major park built in Rockville.

show preliminary designs to residents and collect additional input.

For more information on King Farm Park, call 240-314-8620. RR

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A Closer Look at Issues That Affect Rockville

CITY SSUES

East Rockville Neighborhood Plan:

Mayor and Council to Adopt Plan in Early March

Following a lengthy process involving many members of the East Rockville community, the Mayor and Council are getting set to adopt the new East Rockville Neighborhood Plan at an early March meeting.

The plan, which has been approved by the Planning Commission and the Neighborhood Plan Advisory Group, details goals and recommendations for the East Rockville neighborhood, which is bounded by Rockville Metro station and

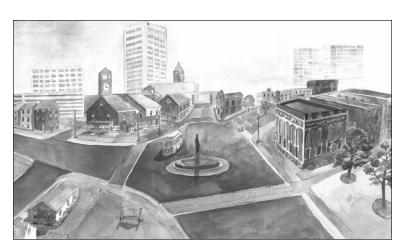
Stonestreet Avenue on the west, Veirs Mill Road on the south, First Street on the east, and the Lincoln Park neighborhood and Southlawn Lane industrial area on the north.

At a public hearing held on Jan. 20, representatives of the Neighborhood Plan Advisory Group and the East Rockville Business Association, which consists of many business and property owners in the Stonestreet Avenue corridor, addressed the Mayor and Council.

"Although most addressed

support for the plan to move forward at this time, some have concerns about the impact of zoning changes in the corridor on properties and existing businesses," said Jim Wasilak, Rockville's chief of long range planning. "Many of these issues will be analyzed and resolutions determined through the Implementation Strategy Study, which will begin immediately upon adoption of the neighborhood plan."

After any text or map changes that came as a result



Planners envision the Stonestreet business corridor in East Rockville becoming a boulevard of mixed uses.

of the public hearing, the Mayor and Council will adopt the East Rockville Neighborhood Plan in early March.

For more information, contact Wasilak at 240-314-8211, or visit Rockville's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov. RR

Historic Homes Will be Marked with Distinction

Rockville's historic homes and buildings, which have come to symbolize the City's rich past, will soon become further distinguished with historic plaques that unite them in city of Rockville achieving historic status. With the backing of the Mayor and Coun-ORIC PROP cil, each building will retain its individual status by having the year the

cantly noted on the plaque. The City's Historic District Commission (HDC) is in the process of soliciting bids for bronze-cast plaques that will be placed in easily identifiable places on the front of structures that have gained historic designation.

building was erected signifi-

Tentative plans call for the individually cast plaques to be oval in shape with "City of Rockville" written along the top. They would have the date of construction in the middle. The plaques also would contain the city seal and the words "Historic Property" along the bottom.

Currently there are 132 sites that have gained historic designation from the City. This number includes singlesite homes, commercial structures, institutional buildings and other sites (such as cemeteries). The list includes homes contributing to historically designated districts.

The Mayor and Council will soon consider recognizing the Lincoln Park neighborhood as an historic district, which would add as many as 88 more homes to

the list. In addition four other properties in the City are currently under consideration for historic designation.

> The oldest buildings to be recognized for designation are 5 North

Adams Street and 101 North Adams. The property at 5 North Adams, a former

home that was converted into a legal office, has been traced to 1799.

Cynthia Kebba, a Rockville City planner and staff member of the HDC, said the HDC has been developing a plan for the placement of plaques throughout Rockville for several years.

In January, the Mayor and Council said that instead of plaques that would all have the same wording, a preferred option would be to have plaques that are uniformly worded, but have large dates noting the years the buildings were established. Although this approach would increase the cost of plaques (uniformly worded plaques were estimated to have a cost of about \$45-50 each), the Mayor and Council said added cost for individual dates on plaques would be worth the impact.

"The plaques are intended to bring recognition to these buildings that people may otherwise not realize are historically designated," said Kebba.

For more information about the program, contact Kebba at 240-314-8233. RR — Contributed by Mary Robbins

Town Center Parking Garages The Mayor and Council of Rockville have tentatively

given approval to a comprehensive plan that would provide funding to build three public parking garages in the new Rockville Town Center.

The plan creates a limited parking district; will impose market rate daytime charges and minimal charges for night and weekend parking in the new garages; and envisions issuance of \$30 million in general obligation bonds.

At a worksession on Feb. 12, the Mayor and Council approved the plan that will become more defined over the next month. The proposal will create more than 1,600 publicly financed and approximately 250 privately financed spaces to support the redeveloped \$300 million downtown.

Groundbreaking for the project, which will include a mix of retail, entertainment, cultural, residential and office uses, is scheduled for spring. The opening of the first buildings, including the new Rockville Regional Library, is scheduled for 2006.

The parking district was reduced from its original design that included many areas beyond the 15 acres that will compose Phase I of Town Center. [This first phase will be called Rockville Town Square by private development partners RD Rockville, LLC and Federal Realty Investment Trust.] The Phase I area is bordered by Beall Avenue on the north; Middle Lane on the south; North Washington Street on the west and Maryland Route 355 on the east. Eventually, from this central start, Town Center redevelopment will expand to a total of about 60 acres.

Plan Approved to Fund

In a parking district, commercial properties that benefit from parking structures are assessed a fee to pay for the parking spaces created. In the plan tentatively approved, only owners of business properties within the newly developed Rockville Town Square area, and the owners of the Foulger-Pratt Rockville Metro Plaza at the corner of Route 355 and Middle Lane, will be part of the parking district. A fee structure will be established at a later time.

> **66** As strongly as I feel about not charging for parking on nights and weekends, I feel even more strongly about jeopardizing our bond rating.

> > Councilmembe Susan Hoffmann

The Mayor and Council had indicated a desire to not charge for parking in evenings and on weekends. However, in a presentation by the City's financial advisors, Kathy Kardell and Wayne Burggraaff of Public Financial Management (PFM), the Mayor and Council learned that Rockville will be in a much stronger position to issue bonds and maintain its highly respected credit rating if some charges were imposed on nights and weekends to demonstrate an increased revenue flow in the early years of the project to

help pay off the debt service on the bonds.

The Mayor and Council elected to tentatively impose a flat \$1 dollar fee for parking after a designated night hour (yet to be determined) and on weekends. Regular weekday parking rates are expected to be \$1 per hour to a maximum of \$8 per day.

The total cost of the parking garages is estimated at about \$30 million. It is estimated that revenue from the parking garages and from more than 500 parking meters around the City (the first of which were installed two years ago) will produce about \$2.4 million per year in the early years of the project.

The Mayor and Council asked about several scenarios. including one in which there would be no parking charges on nights and weekends in the early years of Town Center, with charges later imposed if parking revenues were less than anticipated. But the financial consultants advised that it would be better to impose night and weekend parking charges early and then reduce or eliminate them if revenues exceed expectations.

"As strongly as I feel about not charging for parking on nights and weekends," said Councilmember Susan Hoffmann, "I feel even more strongly about jeopardizing our bond rating.'

Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmembers Hoffmann, **Bob Dorsey and Anne Robbins** gave unanimous approval to proceed with the proposed plans. Councilmember John Hall, Jr., was unable to attend the worksession. RR

CITY SERVICE People Ro

People, Places & Things
Serving the
Rockville Community

New Parking Meters Up and Running

A majority of the parking meters located around Rockville are now in place, and with the warning period over, tickets will be issued for violations. The newest meters are located along South Washington Street, Vinson Street, Monroe Place, and Middle Lane. These are in addition to the meters already in operation near the Twinbrook Metro Station and within Rockville Town Center.

Commuters should be particularly aware of meters on some streets (such as Vinson Street) that are not in the traditional position immediately adjacent to the curb. Because of the design of some older, narrow sidewalks, meters were placed on the opposite side of the sidewalk to allow at least four feet of space for adequate pedestrian and wheelchair access. Extensive signage warns users of the regulations.

Two-hour meters will be in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except City and State holidays. Twelve-hour meters will be in effect from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., except City and State holidays. The rates at all meters will be 50 cents per hour.

The meters can accept quarters or prepaid parking cards. These cards will be convenient for regular parkers in Rockville and can be purchased at the Cashier's window at City Hall via cash or credit card, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will be available in increments of \$60, \$50, or \$20.

Commuters should be aware of meters on some streets that are not in the traditional position immediately adjacent to the curb.

Look for more meters to be in operation later this year along Fleet Street, Park Avenue, Jefferson Plaza, and N. Stonestreet Avenue.

The parking meter program has two major long-term benefits for the city. Because parking is scarce in some areas of Rockville, meters encourage more rapid turnover of parking spaces. In addition, the revenue generated by the meters and associated fines will support the building of public parking garages in the new Town Center.

For more information, call 240-314-8910. RR

¡Atención conductores! Los parquímetros ya funcionan

La mayoría de los parquímetros ubicados en los alrededor de Rockville ya están instalados y funcionando. Con el período de advertencia cumplido, se empezará a expedir boletas por las violaciones. Los parquímetros más nuevos están ubicados a lo largo de South Washington Street, Vinson Street, Monroe Place y Middle Lane. Estos se agregan a los parquímetros que ya funcionan cerca de la estación Twinbrook del Metro y en el centro de la Ciudad de Rockville (Town Center).

Los conductores de vehículos deben tener en cuenta que los parquímetros en algunas calles (como Vinson Street) no están instalados del modo tradicional inmediatamente adyacentes al borde de la vereda—. Debido al diseño de algunas veredas más antiguas y estrechas, los parquímetros se colocaron en el lado opuesto de la vereda para permitir al menos cuatro pies de espacio para el adecuado acceso de peatones y sillas de ruedas. Amplios carteles advierten a los usuarios sobre los reglamentos para el estacionamiento.

El programa de parquímetros tiene dos principales beneficios a largo plazo para la Ciudad. Dado que el estacionamiento es escaso en algunas áreas de Rockville, los parquímetros promueven un recambio más rápido en los espacios de estacionamiento. Esto es particularmente importante para los comerciantes.

Además, los ingresos generados por los parquímetros y las multas relacionadas costearán la construcción de garajes públicos de estacionamiento en el nuevo Town Center.

Los parquímetros de dos horas funcionarán de lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m., excepto en los días feriados de la Ciudad y el Estado. Los parquímetros de 12 horas funcionarán de 6 a.m. a 6 p.m. Las tarifas para todos los parquímetros serán de 50 centavos por hora.

Los parquímetros aceptan monedas de 25 centavos o tarjetas de estacionamiento prepagas. Esas tarjetas, convenientes para quienes estacionan regularmente en Rockville, pueden adquirirse en el Ayuntamiento (City Hall).

Más adelante, en el curso del presente año, habrá más parquímetros funcionando a lo largo de Fleet Street, Jefferson Plaza y N. Stonestreet Avenue.

Para más información sobre los parquímetros de la Ciudad, llame al 240-314-8910. RR

> — Translated by Victoria Imas-Duchovny

Rockville University for Seniors

It's never too late to learn something new! And for Rockville's seniors this spring, that means learning more about the city in which they live.

For seven weeks, senior adults will take a closer look into the daily workings of one of the largest cities in Maryland. With a class-like atmosphere, this program strives to teach seniors about the city's history, its government, neighborhood leadership issues, and an introduction to the Rockville Web site.

Through weekly lesson plans, take-home assignments, field trips, and tours, Rockville University will help seniors develop the skills necessary to get involved in their community.



Participants will visit City facilities, such as the Water Treatment Plant, Gude Drive Maintenance Facility, Rockville Municipal Swim Center, community centers, and City parks. Guest speakers from the City of Rockville government as well as from the Rockville community will be invited.

"This is a great opportunity for seniors to learn about the new and different businesses that are located in Rockville and that offer many services geared specifically to seniors," says Dwayne Jenkins, a neighborhood resources coordinator.

After the seven weeks, seniors who have successfully completed the program will receive diplomas from the Rockville Mayor and Council at a graduation ceremony.

This special session of Rockville University for Seniors, which is offered at no cost through the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, will take place each Thursday from March 18 through April 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr. Free transportation is also provided.

Please call 240-314-8343 for more information or to register. RR

Taxing Season, But Still Time to Lend Help

January through April usually turns the professional, and personal, lives of Certified Public Accountants into chaos. They work well into the evening most days, are in the office weekends and are constantly bombarded with the personal needs and demands of people who must get their tax returns filed on time.

But then there is the irresistible charms of Stan
Seemann, who for the past 28
years has been coaxing highly
qualified people to volunteer
during the busy season to prepare tax returns at no charge
for low-income people and senior citizens in the City of
Rockville.

This year, Seemann has recruited 26 accountants to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The VITA vol-



Resident Gregory Dail, left, had help from Eileen Sherr in preparing his 2003 tax return. Sherr, who works for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, has been volunteering with Rockville's VITA program for 10 years.

unteers will prepare returns every Tuesday night through April 13 in the offices of Rockville's Department of Neighborhood and Community at 32 Courthouse Square.

"Last year, we did the most returns ever in one year—about 175," said Seemann. "We likely will do more than that."

Seemann said he is working hard to expand one aspect of the VITA program: having volunteers go to homes of housebound residents.

For more information on the VITA program, call 240-314-8310. RR

Talk it Out; Work it Out

Have you experienced a conflict within Rockville with a current or former neighbor, employer, employee, tenant, landlord, business owner, customer, organization or friend?

These are often frustrating situations, but the City of Rockville's free Mediation Program can help resolve many types of conflict.

Rather than seek the assistance of a lawyer and go to court, the program administered by the City's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services urges those involved to choose an alternative form of dispute resolution.

"Talk it Out to Work it Out" is the program's slogan. Two trained independent mediators will work with both parties to achieve a solution.

For more information on the program, call Janet Kelly, Rockville's Human Rights/ Community Mediation administrator, at 240-314-8316.RR

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INSIDE MAYOR COUNCIL A Glimpse into the City Government at Work City Government at Work

Chestnut Activities Building: No Historic Designation

The community center/activity building that is part of the Chestnut Lodge hospital property at 500 West Montgomery Ave. is approaching 50 years old, but the structure will not be a candidate for historic designation, Rockville's Mayor and Council decided at their general session on Feb. 9.

The entire property once was home to one of the nation's renowned psychiatric hospitals. It covers about 20 acres, and in recent years, the City has pursued historic designations of various buildings on the property. The most notable of the structures—the main building that once served as a hotel-already has attained historic designation.

The Washington Waldorf School purchased the property about two years ago and intended to create a main campus for the private school. However, the school was unable to raise the needed funds to develop the project and has sold the property to a developer. The school opposed historic designation of the Chloethiel Woodard Smith-designed community center/activities building because it felt that would perhaps prohibit destruction of the building-

The search for a new city

manager took a step forward on

Feb. 9 when the Mayor and

Council selected four national

lead the selection process for

search firms that they will inter-

view before choosing one firm to

Rockville's next chief city admin-

Catherine Tuck Parrish,

Rockville's assistant city man-

ager, was named the acting city

manager on Jan. 12, the day W.

Mark Pentz resigned to become

city manager of Chandler, Ariz.

After Pentz informed the city

Pentz had served as city man-

in December that he would be

concerning a search effort was

leaving, a request for proposals

sent out to search firms. A team

ager for 5 1/2 years.



The Chestnut Lodge activities building, built in 1954, will not gain historic designation from Rockville's Mayor and Council.

and would limit the school's ability to recoup its investment under its purchase agreement with new owner Associated Companies.

The Mayor and Council did not consider that argument in deciding not to pursue historic designation.

The City's preservation planners said the building was eligible for consideration. Among the arguments for possible designation was that Smith, an architect who designed numerous notable buildings in the Washington area, designed the activities building.

The owners have a pending application with the City for demolition of the building.

"I acknowledge that Ms. or

of city staff ranked the seven pro-

posals received according to ex-

successful searches for chief ex-

ecutive officers in cities approxi-

mately the size of Rockville; the

conduct the search; and cost.

the Mercer Group, the PAR

proposed comprehensive plan to

Group, Slavin Management Con-

sultants and Bennet Yarger Asso-

The Mayor and Council

asked that interviews be set up

with those four groups so that

one could be chosen. The inter-

likely will take place in March.

will be selected in six to nine

It is expected a new city manager

views with the search firms

The top four rated firms were

perience in conducting

Mrs. Smith designed significant buildings," said Councilmember Susan Hoffmann. "But from all I have heard, and all I have read, this is not one of them."

Much of the discussion centered on the fact that the activities building was not pushed for historic designation consideration when various buildings on the property were discussed in recent years. "Our job is not only to support a designation because of the history," said Hall. "But our job also is to consider whether it is the right thing to do."

The draft design guidelines for the proposed development of Chestnut Lodge are available on the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov. RR

Sister City Wine Tasting On March 5

The 12th annual Wine Tasting Social, sponsored by the Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC), will be held Friday, March 5, starting at 8 p.m. at Glenview Mansion (the Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr.).

Rockville's Mayor and Council have been major supporters of Rockville's Sister City program. Rockville and Pinneberg, Germany, were paired as part of the program that attempts to match U.S. cities with cities around the world with common interests.

In keeping with RSCC's mission of outreach to the diverse ethnic and cultural communities within Rockville, this year's social will feature white wines of Asia, the South Pacific and South African areas. RSCC plans to offer wines from China not easily found in U.S. markets along with the better known varieties from Australia and New Zealand.

Admission is \$15 per person for RSCC members and \$25 for non-members.

For further details on the wine tasting, call 240-314-5029.





Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for January are:

- March 8 John F. Hall, Jr.
- March 15 Susan Hoffmann
- March 22 Anne Robbins

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov. All meetings are subject to change.

- March 1 (Mon.) Worksession (tentative), 7 p.m.
- March 3 (Wed.) Worksession/ General Session. Joint meeting **Planning Commission on Town** Square, 7 p.m.
- March 4 (Thur.) Work Session. Joint meeting with Park & Planning Board and City of Gaithersburg, 7:30 p.m.
- March 8 (Mon.) General Session,
- March 15 (Mon.) Public Hearing (Update on Bikeway Master Plan), 7 p.m.
- March 22 (Mon.) General Session, 7 p.m.
- 7 p.m. (if needed)

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Animal Matters Board (one)
- Human Rights Commission (two)
- Landlord -Tenant (one tenant rep)
- Recreation & Parks Board (one)
- Traffic & Transportation (one) For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

Please note: The Sister City Corp. is seeking volunteer (non-appointed) members. Interested people should call and leave a message at 240-314-5029.

A Look Back

Recent actions taken by the Mayor and Council

Citywide Stormwater Management Plan: Approval was given to retain a consultant and begin a study of the stormwater management needs that would enable Rockville to meet obligations set by Maryland state laws. At a worksession on Feb. 17, a report to the Mayor and Council detailed how some older sections of the City in particular were built with limited stormwater management facilities. In the future, a fee likely will be charged to residents to pay for these needed upgrades. The study of needs likely will take two years.

A Look Ahead

Upcoming issues to be addressed by the Mayor and Council:

Twinbrook Commons: A worksession is tentatively scheduled to discuss the planned mixed use development around the Twinbrook Metro Station. Much of the development lies east of the Metro Station and is just outside the City, coming under the direction of Montgomery County. The area west of the station would come under City zoning and planning. Tenative. Monday, March 1. 7 p.m.

Town Center: The Mayor and Council will hold a joint worksession with the City's Planning Commission to discuss approval of the Town Square Development application. Town Square is the name of Phase I of Town Center (the first 15 acres to be developed by RD Rockville, LLC and Federal Realty Investment Trust). Wednesday, March 3. 7 p.m.

Plans Beyond the City Borders: A joint meeting will be held with the Mayor and Council of Gaithersburg to discuss land use and planning issues that affect Rockville, Gaithersburg and the surrounding area. Thursday, March 4. 7:30 p.m.

Bikeway Master Plan: A public hearing will be held on an update of the City's Bikeway Master Plan. Over the past decade, Rockville has become a model urban community in regard to access by bicycle. Monday, March 15. 7 p.m.

FY2005 Budget Dates

City Manager Search Begins

April 12: Copy of proposed budget presented to Mayor and Council

April 19: Budget Public Hearing May 3: Budget Public Hearing

May 11: Budget worksession

May 18: Budget worksession May 24: Budget worksession

June 7: Optional budget worksession

June 14: Budget adoption

OUT & ABOUT \ ROCKVILLE

Arts Sampler: Sunday, March 14

Rockville is packed with outstanding performing arts organizations that display their talents throughout the year. But on one special day each year, the Rockville Arts Sampler brings all of the City's resident companies together for an afternoon of entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

The fourth annual Rockville Arts Sampler will be Sunday, March 14, at 3 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Scheduled to perform vignettes are the Rockville Civic Ballet. Rockville Chorus, Rockville Concert Band, Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra, National Philharmonic String Institute, Rockville Little Theatre, Rockville Musical Theatre and Victorian Lyric Opera Company.

There also will be visual presentations by the Rockville Art League and Rockville Arts Place. The afternoon will be topped off with the presentation of the 2004 Rockville Arts Awards. There is no admission fee, but tickets are required and may be obtained at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office.

For information call Arts **Programs Supervisor Betty** Wisda at 240-314-8681. RR



SHADOW BOXING: Many families in the Rockville area came to the Croydon Creek Nature Center on Sunday, Feb. 1, to get a head start on Groundhog Day-which followed one day later. Most youngsters, like the one here, tried to help the City's largest groundhog find his shadow. The outcome was not what many wanted to know: the City was going to endure six more weeks of winter.

Young Artists to Display Talents at Student Art Show

Since the 1950s, the Rockville community has been treated each March to the works of some of the City's most talented young artists at the Rockville Student Art Show. This year's show will be featured at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery from March 7-23.

Co-sponsored by the Rockville Art League—the original sponsor when the show began more than 50 years ago—this event attracts the works of more than 200 young artists who either are Rockville residents or attend a school in Rockville.

For artists who have yet to enter their work, there is still time. Registration and delivery of all artwork is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 29. The art show is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, who are allowed to show one 2-dimension or 3-dimension work in any media.

An opening reception for the show will be held Sunday, March 2. As part of the reception, the Rockville-based Musical Theatre Center's "Singular Sensations" will present performances in the Glenview Conservatory starting at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

"This is the one event that really showcases the artistic abilities of Rockville's young people," said Kathleen Moran, arts program specialist for the City of Rockville. "There is a real sense of community spirit when this exhibit is up.'

For many families, the Student Art Show is an annual event. Those unable to attend the show still can view the works of the budding artists on the City Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov. The art likely will be viewable on the Web site after March 15.

For more information on the Student Art Show, call 240-314-8682.RR

District 17 Delegation to Host 'Town Hall Meeting'

State government will come closer to the citizens of Rockville on Sunday, March 7, when Maryland's District 17 delegation will host a "Town Hall Meeting" at 2 p.m. at Rockville's Senior Center.

The Town Hall Meeting is open to all residents interested in government at the state level and how it relates to their community.

Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegates Kumar Barve, Michael Gordon and Luiz Simmons will discuss their roles in the current General Assembly session and will answer questions.

"This is the kind of thing

we have wanted to do for a long time." said Senator Forehand. "We want to let more people know about what is happening this session in the legislature."

The Rockville Senior Center is located at 1150 Carnation Dr. Directions to the Rockville Senior Center from I-270, traveling north: Take Exit 6A to Nelson Street. Make a left on Aster Boulevard and turn then left on Carnation Drive. Follow to end to Senior Center parking lot.

For more information on the town hall meeting, contact Senator Forehand's office at 301-858-3134. RR

Lifeguard Training

The City of Rockville's Municipal Swim Center will offer lifeguard training with classes in March, April and May.

Classes will be held on

Thursday evenings, starting at 7 p.m.

For more information on working toward lifeguard certification, call Beth Fowler at 240-314-8754. RR

Peerless Brings Rockville Home

Peerless Rockville, the organization dedicated to preserving the City's history, has put together a series of free discussions that will help residents learn more about Rockville by studying the evolution of various neighborhoods and development patterns.

The series is called "Bringing it Home to Rockville— Neighborhoods in Rockville, 1784-2004" and the program will move around to different locations each month.

"Each Rockville neighborhood reflects its time about when residents first moved in, popular architectural styles and ideas about home life." said Eileen McGuckian, executive director of Peerless Rockville and author of "Rockville: Portrait of a City."

The next discussions in the series are as follows:

- "Planned Neighborhoods": Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. at the New Mark Commons Clubhouse. A look at the planned communities of New Mark Commons and Woodley Gardens.
- "Multi-family Housing, 1850-2004": Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Americans Center (4 Monroe Street). High density living in Rockville has developed in trends, from people living above Mom and Pop's shop to condominium living. The trend will soon return as Rockville develops high density apartments and condos in Town Center.

For more details, see www.peerlessrockville.org or call Peerless Rockville at 301-762-0096. RR

Relocation Status of Local Businesses

The relocation status, as of Feb. 18, of businesses that were part of the Federal Reality-owned center on North Washington Street that will be closed to pave way for the new Rockville Town Center.

Relocated

- •The Bargain Box
- 398 Hungerford Drive, Rockville •The Dialysis Center
- 7524 Standish Place, Rockville
- •Magruder's Farmer's Market
- (Original store remains until demolition) New store: College Plaza
- 15108 Frederick Road, Rockville •Q.L. Barbers
- 199 E. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- Sir Speedy
- 10 N. Washington St. Rockville •Tiger Beer and Wine
- 303 N. Washington St. Rockville
- •Tuesday Morning **Congressional Center Rockville**

- •Treasure Chest Fine Jewelry Now: Sandy Allison Diamonds and Fine Jewelry 9845 Georgetown Pike
- Great Falls, Va. •Zi Pani
- 1129 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. Washington D.C.

Planned Relocations

- Chevy Chase Bank (temporary location)
- 41 Maryland Avenue, Rockville
- •CVS (temporary location) 8 West Middle Lane Rockville
- Great Harvest Bread Federal Plaza, Rockville

- Guiseppi's Fine Pizza
- 199 E. Montgomery Ave., Rockville • Hair Inc.
- 8 West Middle Lane, Rockville
- Rockville Arts Place 9300 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg
- •The Waygoose
- 4848 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda •UPS Store
- 451 Hungerford Drive, Rockville •Vignola Pasta Gourmet 1022-1024 Rockville Pike, Rockville
- Center Cleaners continues to look for
- a suitable location. GNC and Starbucks likely will close.
- Hiro Sushi and Made By You have closed.

Relocations: Staying Close

As Rockville looks ahead to the spring groundbreaking of the new Town Center, the City remains concerned about relocating businesses located in the Federal Realty Investment Trust shopping center on North Washington Street that is anchored by Magruder's grocery store. This center will be replaced by several key elements of the redeveloped downtown, including a new street and parking garage.

As of Feb. 18, relocation plans had been formalulated for 18 of the 23 businesses. City relocation specialists continue to work with five other businesses, although two of them have closed and two oth-

Encouraging is that 14 of the 18 businesses that have announced relocation plans are relocating in, or close to, the current Town Center area.

The City is paying for businesses to relocate. For any business that will return to the new Town Center in two years, the City also will pay additional relocation costs.

NOTE: Approximately 25 retail businesses and offices located at the corner of Hungerford Drive and Beall Avenue also will be eligible for relocation assistance. The City will be working with these businesses and offices in the near future.

In Brief

Spots Available for Two Free Citizen Police Academies

Ever wondered what it takes to be a police officer? Ever wondered why the police do certain things?

The Rockville City Police
Department is offering two
free Citizen Police Academies
beginning March 2 for residents over 16 years of age.
The Senior Citizens Police
Academy will be held on
Tuesdays through April 6
from 1-3 p.m. at the Rockville
Senior Center. The Citizens
Police Academy will be held
from 6:30-9 p.m. each Tuesday
through April 20 at Glenview
Mansion.

Both academies will provide the public with a more comprehensive understanding of what is required to help officers perform their duties effectively. The Senior Citizens Police Academy will focus specifically on issues related to senior safety. Transportation will be provided by the Senior Center for senior residents of Rockville.

Community Services Officer Jan Seilhamer is accepting students at 240-314-8922.

CALL **240-314-8922** FOR INFO

Good Neighbor Nominations

Applications are currently being accepted through the end of May for the second annual Rockville "Good Neighbor Awards."

Rockville residents who between now and July 2003 made a significant contribution to the community, a neighbor or to the City in general are eligible.

To nominate an adult or youth for an award, or for more information, contact Dwayne Jenkins.

CALL **240-314-8343** FOR INFO

Warmer Weather: Brings Opportunities For Spring Cleaning

When the gray skies have cleared, and the ice and snow are finally gone, the fresh rays of sunshine become a direct spotlight on homes and yards. And this creates an excellent opportunity for a spring cleaning of your property.

Rockville's Division of Community Enhancement and Code Enforcement encourages homeowners to check for the damage harsh winters can leave behind. The first warm weather is time to check for damage to roofs, fences, paint and siding. Decks also can suffer damage.

Often, a winter with consid-

erable ice, like this past winter, can cause gutters to pull away from the house. This can lead to extensive water damage during the rainy spring season if not repaired.

CALL **240-314-8330** FOR INFO

Rent Garden Plots

Community garden plots will be available starting Feb. 26 for Rockville residents and March 1 for non-residents. The plots are 20-feet by 25-feet and are located in Wootton's Mill Park. The cost is \$25 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. Call on those dates to reserve a plot. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov for an application.

CALL **240-314-8660** FOR INFO

Home Improvement Grants Available

Low- and moderate-income Rockville homeowners can apply for grants and loans to make necessary upgrades to their homes through Rockville's Home Improvement Program.

This includes upgrades to electrical, plumbing and home heating systems. Funds for the program are provided by Housing and Urban Development through the U.S. Community Development Block Grant Program and are administered by the City's Depart-

ment of Community Planning and Development Services.

Call to inquire about eligibility requirements and loan limits.

CALL **240-314-8208** FOR INFO

Get Up!

At last a group for 6th-8th grade girls that blends fun with learning about the stuff all girls go through!

From friendships, popularity and cliques, to health, reaching goals and taking care of yourself, girls are able to talk about what goes on in their lives through discussion, journal writing, artwork, games, and much more in this six-week program.

This is a great opportunity for young teens to express themselves and gain confidence and an awareness of all they have to offer. There is a \$10 supply fee, which is payable to instructor at first class.

Julie Guido, a licensed Certified Clinical Social Worker in private practice, has worked with children, adolescents and families for 15 years.

Class runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Monday, April 19, to Monday, May 24, and will be held at the Rockville Senior Center. Cost per girl is \$49 for residents and \$56 for nonresidents.

CALL **240-314-8620** FOR INFO

Think Summer! Register for Summer Camps

It's hard to imagine warm weather and the end to another school year, but it's not too early to be planning for those long summer months!

Summer Camp registration has begun for city residents and will begin on March 4 for nonresidents. Summer Camp Guides may be picked up at Rockville City Hall or other City facilities. Camps begin on June 21 and operate for three two-week sessions, and one one-week session in early August.

Registration is easy and can be done a number of different ways: online via RockEnroll, by fax, by mail or drop-off at the Recreation Counter located on the third floor of City Hall.

Aside from Summer Camps, Rockville is also offering specialty clinics in Big Train Baseball, Basketball, Inline Skating, Cheerleading, and—new this year—a Skills Lacrosse camp will be offered in the evening.

If your summer includes earning some extra money, the City of Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department is looking for energetic, fun-loving, creative and enthusiastic camp leaders and directors.

CALL **240-314-8620** FOR INFO

CITY

20 Off Leash Dog Testing. Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. Middle Lane Parking Lot. 240-314-8930.

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006.

7–23 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery features the 2004 Rockville Student Art Show. K-12 grades, varied media. Opening reception, Sunday, March 7, 1-4 p.m. 240-314-8682.

7 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert features The Musical Theater Center's Singular Sensations, a Broadway Musical revue1:30-2 p.m. and 2:30-3 p.m. Free. 240-314-8682.

14 Rockville Arts Sampler.
All of the City's resident companies come together for an afternoon of entertainment. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 3 p.m. Free (ticket required), 240-314-8681.

19,20 National Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and National Philharmonic Chorale Concert. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$29, \$19. 301-762-8580.

21 Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert. 3 p.m. Free. 240-314-8681.

27,28 Rockville Civic Ballet. Spring Production. Show times: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m., F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. \$8 general admission; \$6 children under 12 and seniors over 60. Box Office: 240-314-8690.

march

calendar of events

RES = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member

28-Apr. 27 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery features "Fusion: A Mix of Cultures" by Diane Bruce, prints and paintings; "Math and Forest Series" by Martha Oatway, monoprint with collage; and Lisa Aerianna Tayerle, mixed media prints and hand-made books. Opening reception, Sunday, March 28, 1-4 p.m. Artist talk, Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. 240-314-8682

28 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert features Davi Walders and Douglas Wolters' "Muse and Music: An Afternoon of Poetry and Cello." Free. 240-314-8682.

NATURE CENTER

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd., Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Phone: 240-314-8770.

2,18 Poop, Poop Everywhere We can learn just by looking a little bit closer to animal poop. Take a hike and make some treats to take home. Tuesday, March 2, 2 - 3 p.m., for ages 7 – 11; Thursday, March 18, 1 - 2 p.m., for ages 3 – 6. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

4 Critters in Disguise Learn how animals go unnoticed in the forests, wetlands, meadows and desert. Take a hike looking for critters hiding from us and make a craft. 1 - 2 p.m. Ages 3 – 6. \$2 RES/\$3 NR

10 Tiny Tot Walk - It's Not Easy Being Green

Celebrate the start of spring with a walk about frogs. (Note: Due to the popularity of Tiny Tot Walks, registration begins Wednesday, Feb. 25.) 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Ages 11/2 - 2. \$2 RES/\$3 NR

10 Tyke Hike - It's Not Easy Being Green Celebrate the start of spring with a walk about frogs. 1 - 2 p.m. Ages 3 – 5. \$2 RES/\$3 NR

18 Spotted Salamander Hike Come experience the unusual annual migration of this large, native amphibian. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Ages 7+. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

25 Beaks, Beaks, Beaks! Take a hike, make a craft, and study birds', ducks', platypus' and turtles' beaks. 10 - 11 a.m. for ages 3 – 6. 1 - 2 p.m. for ages 3 – 6. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.

27 Wye Island and the Elusive Fox Squirrel The endangered Delmarva fox squirrel has eluded one of our naturalists for 15 years. Will this be the trip that ends the dry slump? Take a van trip to Wye Island Natural Resource Management Area. After spending the morning at Wye Island, choose either to eat lunch and shop in nearby St. Michael's or stay at Wye Island and search for bald eagles and waterfowl. Bring binoculars, a bag lunch (if staying at Wye Island) and a beverage. Dress warmly and wear shoes good for mucky terrain. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Ages 18+. \$20 RES/ \$23 NR.

SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800.

3 March Birthday & Anniversary Party. 1:30-3 p.m. Register by Feb. 28. Free.

4 Veterans Group—Air & Space Museum lecture. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Register by Feb. 26. Free. 4 Simple and Affordable Internet Access: Web TV. 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Registration required. Call 240-314-8810. Free.

Burma and Angkor Wat, Cambodia. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Register by March 1. Free

10 In-Person Trip Lottery for Spring Trips. 10:15 a.m.

11 Save For Your Grandchild's Tuition. 10:15-11:30 a.m. Reg. required. Call 240-314-8810. Free.

12 Meet and Greet Author Series. June Bradlaw's "Tree Bear's Adventure in Learning." 10:30-11:30 a.m. Register by March 1. Free

15-22 Mail. 10-12 noon. Reg. required. \$15 MEM/\$19 NM.

17 West End Dinner Theatre trip for those with confirmed registrations.

Classical Music with Murray-Music of Germany and the 3B's. 1-2:30 p.m.. Register by March 10. Free.

Update On Diabetes. 1-2 p.m. Registration required. Call 240-314-8810. Free

22-Apr-12 Lifelong Learning Institute. Co-sponsored by Montgomery College. 1:30-3 p.m. Four weeks. Register by March 15. \$25 MEM/\$30 NM

23&24 Introduction to Woodworking, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Register by March 9. \$46 MEM/\$58 NM.

24 Signing Seniors, 2:30-3:30 pm. Register by March 17. Free

25 Casual Chinese Cooking, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Register by March 11. \$24 MEM/\$30 NM.

29 & 31 Right Click-Left Click. 1-3 p.m. Registration required. \$6 MEM/\$8 NM.

30 Beaded Jewelry, 10:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Register by March 17. \$8 MEM/12 NM.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings at City Hall unless otherwise noted

6 Board of Appeals, 9:30 a.m.

10 Cultural Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

10 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

16 Rockville Seniors, Inc., 1 p.m. Senior Center.

18 Historic District Commission, 7 p.m.

18 Senior Citizens Commission, 10 a.m. Senior Center.

Rockville Sister City Corporation, 7:30 p.m.

24 Planning Commission,

25 Recreation and Park Advisory Board, 7 p.m. Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Rockville Up Close: RockNet - Pushing the Edge of Internet

In 1996, a group of Rockville citizens who believed that a technology that was relatively new, or unknown, to most people had a big future. These people were confident that this technology known as "The Internet" could provide a medium for bringing citizens together.

Obviously, they had a good grasp of the potential power of what would become a force that, in a very short time, altered the world in ways not even they could have foreseen. The group was RockNet.

On the second Thursday of every month, the Internet-savvy members of RockNet meet at City Hall to discuss the maintenance of their Web site: www.RockNet.org. The group works to improve and expand the network that fosters communication between citizens, the Rockville City government, businesses and community groups.

"I believe Internet technology can be used to im-



WEB OF KNOWLEDGE: The RockNet board members are a driving force to help the City stay on the edge of technological advances. In back, from left to right, are: Roald Schrack, Brian Pierce, Jim Beller and Stan Klein. In front is RockNet President Bob Ekman. Missing from the photo is board member Ben Pauwels.

prove our lives and develop a sense of community," said Bob Ekman, president of RockNet and someone who has been involved with computers and software for 40 years. "The

RockNet mission and activities match my interests."

Ekman, who also is the director of the Rockville Consortium for Science, and the other RockNet volunteers are devoted to improving community outreach through the World Wide Web. They keep up with the latest technology and search for ways to improve the accessibility to information about the city. The group is currently studying the possibility of wireless Internet access for Rockville

The existing site features lists of community organizations, recreation events, businesses and local schools and publications. Additionally, RockNet hosts at no cost Web pages for a number of neighborhood associations. The maintenance of the site is a collaborative effort by citizens representing non-profit organizations, homeowner associations and civic groups.

RockNet is open to anyone interested in uses of the Internet. For more information, contact Betsy Robbins, Rockville's Web administrator, at 240-314-8166. RR

— Contributed by Mary Robbins

Time: Make the Right Call! Volunteer to Be an Umpire!

Volunteer

There are infinite ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations that could use assistance by volunteering in the City. Each month "Volunteer Time" will highlight a different volunteer opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

Warm weather and outdoor sports are right around the corner! Don't strike out this spring and miss a great opportunity to be involved with sports in Rockville.

The City of Rockville is in search of men and women to share their time and talents as umpires for its youth baseball and adult softball leagues. Both leagues begin play in mid-April. Youth softball season runs through June, and youth baseball runs through November (broken into two seasons: Mid-April to mid-July and September to early November).

"This is a great opportunity for someone who is no longer able to play the sport, but to still be involved in the sport," says Chuck Miller, sports programs supervisor for the City of Rockville.

Umpires do receive a stipend per game they umpire, depending upon the sport and level of play. And umpires who attend training classes in March and April and become certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association will be eligible for \$500,000 liability insurance.

Sounds like a lot of fun?
Registration forms are available online (under the Recreation Department at www.rockvillemd.gov), or drop a note to the City of Rockville, Department of Recreation and Parks, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, Attn: Sports Division. A packet of information, including dates for the training clinics, will be sent to you. RR

The Rockville Channel Looks at ICC

TRC 11 Special Discusses How Proposed Highway Will Affect the City

For more than 30 years, three little letters have stirred much reaction around Montgomery County. Those letters are ICC.

The Inter-County Connector, better known as the ICC, is the proposed roadway that would connect Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Although several routes are still under discussion, Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich has pledged support to building the road—which has longbeen supported by the City of Rockville.

But, if built, how will the ICC impact Rockville?

The Rockville Channel (TRC 11) this month takes a closer look into the Mayor and Council's position on the ICC. In a special broadcast, TRC 11 speaks with Larry Marcus, the City's chief of traffic and transportation. He discusses the impact the ICC will have on the arterial streets and neighborhoods of Rockville.

Top officials from the State Highway Administration also appear as part of a panel discussion about the ICC.

"Rockville's Mayor and Council have overwhelmingly supported the ICC," said Marcus. "It ties in with two goals and objectives they set last year — to improve mobility and to protect neighborhoods."

TRC 11

Rockville's streets and neighborhoods were built in recent decades with the idea that the ICC was coming. Because of the time it has taken to get this far with the ICC, many of Rockville's streets and arteries have reached capacity for traffic. By diverting traffic on to the ICC, Rockville can expect see a 10 percent reduction of daily travel on roads

such as Maryland Route 28, Route 355, Gude Drive, and Viers Mill Road.

Some people may not see this as a huge difference, but Marcus said because these roads are at capacity, the ICC will have a very impact.

Residents of the Twinbrook, East Rockville, and West End neighborhoods will feel the biggest effects from the ICC.

For more on the impact of the ICC on Rockville, tune to "Rockville and the ICC." Check the schedule for TRC 11 (below) for the March broadcast schedule. RR

	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL MARCH PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE					CLIP & SAVE	
TRC	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission 🕶
6 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Permit Process	Content of Their Character	Permit Process	Content of Their Character	Content of Their Character	Permit Process	Permit Process
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council 🕶	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▼
9 am	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	African American Heritage 🔻	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	Permit Process	Diversity in the City 🕶	▼
9:30 am	▼	▼	▼	▼	Content of Their Character	▼	▼
10 am	▼	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	African American Heritage 🕶	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	▼
10:30 am	▼	▼	Exploring Past	▼	▼	▼	▼
11 am	Cityline	Permit Process	Preserving the Past	Permit Process	▼	Content of Their Character	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm until meeting ends	Mayor & Council 🕶	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council▼	Planning Commission▼	Mayor & Council▼	Planning Commission▼
4 pm	Diversity in the City ▼	▼	African American Heritage 🔻	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	▼	African American Heritage 🕶	▼
4:30 pm	▼	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	▼	▼	Permit Process	▼	Permit Process
5 pm	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	▼	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	Preserving the Past	▼	Diversity in the City ▼
5:30 pm	▼	Content of Their Character	Bulletin Board	▼	Content of Their Character	Bulletin Board	▼
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Diversity in the City	Planning Commission	Rockville & the I.C.C.	Mayor & Council ▼	African American Heritage 🔻
8 pm	▼	▼	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	▼	▼
8:30 pm	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	Content of Their Character
9 pm	▼	▼	Permit Process	▼	Content of Their Character	▼	Permit Process
9:30 pm	▼	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Diversity in the City ▼	Diversity in the City ▼	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	Diversity in the City ▼	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▼	Content of Their Character	Permit Process
11:30 pm	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	Permit Process	Content of Their Character

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